

A Barbie Dream on Route 13

By Naomi Painter, Staff Writer

In a Barbie World, you can grow up to be anything you want, and, if you go to MVNU, that could very well be the owner of a Barbie museum. MVNU alumni, Melanie Mowery (Class of 1983), had no idea that when she left she would be back in Mount Vernon 40 years later with a pink house and a dream. Now, she owns a Barbie museum just minutes from the school, displaying over 2,000 dolls.

Mowery started collecting Barbies from a young age, and now her collection spans themes such as Hollywood, Coca-Cola, Hot Wheels, disability, controversial, vintage, holiday and many, many more. While some of the Barbies are meant for play, many of them are collectors items. “The collectible ones are more for adults to collect and they’re not usually played with. . . I got that one from the Derby when we went to the Derby,” said Mowery. When I worked at McDonalds, my general manager would take the managers on a trip.”

Of the top 10 rarest Barbies, Mowery owns six, as well as one of the original dolls in the box signed by Ruth Handler, the creator of Barbie. Despite her extensive collection, she’s never been to a Barbie convention: “I’ve actually never been to a convention because I worked at McDonald’s for years and I never really had time. But I want to.”

There’s no need to attend a convention however, as Mowery’s home also serves as a party venue, and she plans for a Barbie-themed interaction room in the future.

Her interest in fashion and love of Barbies since girlhood spurs her passion. Her original Barbies are also on display. Mowery laughingly recalled: “These were my Barbies that



Left to Right: Isaiah Clark, Melanie Mowery, Kara Jenkins, Chloe Hall, Naomi Painter

I played with—this was my first one, back here, the Living Barbie—she was really played with; I don’t think her legs bend anymore . . . When we were kids, my sister and I would play Barbies and when she got mad at me, she’d say: ‘I’m taking my Barbies to another church.’”

From childhood play to a real life Barbieland, Mowery’s museum is truly a dream come true.

For hours and admission prices to Melanie’s Barbie Collectibles and More Museum, visit her Facebook page.

THE VIEWER

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Cougars Go Pink!



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NEW NEW NEW
NEW NEW
NEW

no dares to teach must never cease to learn."



Front Row: Prof. Kelly Smith, Dr. Jodi Mills, Dr. Angela Castleman, Dr. Gbemisola Bamiduro, Prof. Jessica Armstrong, Dr. Cyril Enyi, Prof. Mary Brown. **Back Row:** Dr. Doug Matthews, Dr. Carol Matthews, Rev. Gene McBride, Prof. Kamela Owen, Dr. Emily Huddleston, Prof. Aaron Brumit, Prof. Angela Stanley. **Not Pictured:** Dr. Tiffanie Jones

The Heart Behind the Lecture: New MVNU Professors Speak on Classroom Values, Ideals

By Chloe Hall, Staff Writer

One aspect of MVNU that sets it apart from other liberal arts colleges is the unique values that lie at the heart of its classrooms. Professors at MVNU strive not only to prepare students for success in their chosen careers but also to equip them for life as followers of Christ in an ever-changing world. A few of the university's 14 new professors have shared some of the primary values that shape their roles as college educators.

Angela Stanley, who previously worked as an adjunct professor at MVNU, accepted a full-time teaching position in the psychology department this year. Among the values that impact her as a teacher, Stanley desires to show her students the merit of a deep relationship with Christ. "I am very excited to be here during this time," she said, reflecting on the hope she has for spiritual revival in this generation of learners.

In another corner of the academic world, Dr. Doug Matthews stepped into the role of Professor and Division Chair of Christian Ministry at MVNU. "We [he and his wife,

Dr. Carol Matthews] love everything relative to working with churches and higher education, but the greatest joy is working and journeying together with students," he shared. For Matthews, an important facet of teaching is "partnering with students who are grounded in scripture... and Wesleyan theology."

Reverend Gene McBride, who served as a Nazarene pastor for the last 14 years, has been hired as an assistant professor in MVNU's math department. He aims to help his students "understand Christianity as a reasonable faith" that can hold its ground in the face of logic and questions. "I take the devotional time at the beginning of class pretty seriously," he said. "I want to be able to help students...apply the reasoning skills that math classes can help develop toward how they read and understand scripture."

Whether it be through mathematics, psychology, or Christian ministry, MVNU's professors are a testament to the way college education can instill deeply rooted values that extend far beyond preparing for future employment.

Seeking Reconciliation: Board of Trustees Creates Communication Task Group

By Zoey Hover, Assistant Editor

Last spring, tensions mounted between MVNU faculty, staff and administration amid the process of academic restructuring, resulting in a faculty no-confidence vote against the current president, Dr. Carson Castleman, press releases supporting Castleman's decisions directly from the MVNU Board of Trustees and references to MVNU's conflict in outside media sources. In a press release in February, the Board attributed much of the conflict to poor communication between the parties involved. To address this, the board established the Task Group for Improving Communications and Reconciliation, a committee composed of faculty, staff, administration and board members.

"The task group was given two main goals," stated Kari Taylor, on behalf of the board representatives and Board Chair Ed Phillips. These goals, she stated, were to improve "communication methods and practices within the organization among stakeholders" and "recommend methods to resolve on-campus conflict and cultivate healthy campus relationships."

The task group met repeatedly over the course of the summer to discuss potential solutions, and in that time, Taylor said,

they were able to "complete what was requested by the board of trustees and have already presented recommendations to the administration."

Professor Joe Rinehart, a task group faculty representative, said these recommendations included bringing back

faculty-staff chapel services (services where faculty and staff can "fellowship" and grow together in faith) and "timely and transparent communication from the top down," especially during the decision-making process. "We're looking for clarity," stated Rinehart, "Clarity will tell you about the health of an organization."

Rinehart said he believes that though not all the changes will happen right away, the task group's recommendations will be successful and that he sees some of

them going into effect already, including the reinstating of faculty-staff chapels. "Beyond a shadow of a doubt, our time was well spent."

The task group will make its final recommendations to the board of trustees in November. After this, Taylor said, the group will "officially dissolve."

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